



*National Conference of Editorial Writers*

*1725 N Street, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20036*

*Telephone (202) 785-1081*

October 20, 1976

Dear Mr. Falkiewicz:

As agreed, I am following up our telephone conversation of Oct. 19 with this letter regarding a possible meeting between CIA officials and three or four of our members. The purpose of the meeting would be to exchange views on a subject of direct concern to our members and to all legitimate information media in this country.

We would like to know, for instance, whether we can continue to rely on information found in foreign publications. Many newspapers frequently print excerpts from foreign publications and many journalists, particularly editorial writers, find this information helpful in the formulation of institutional opinion. For these and other reasons it seems to us that it would be virtually impossible to isolate Americans from the CIA's media-related activities abroad.

Perhaps an exchange of views would lead to a better understanding not only of our concerns but also of the CIA's. We would be willing to respect your desire for an off the record session based on the following understandings: After the session, we would inform our members that the session took place, the names of the NCEW officers who attended, the topics, in general, which were discussed, and whatever portion of specific information that you might agree to make on the record. If we felt the meeting was fruitful (or not) we would so report. We would also like to name the CIA officials who participated, although the use of "top officials," or some such designation would be acceptable.

I hope that you will consider these understandings acceptable and that we may proceed to bring to a successful conclusion this year what started out early in the year as a confusing and complex controversy. Please address your correspondence to me c/o Editorial Page, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, Mo. 63101.

*900 N. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Blvd.*

Sincerely,

*John J. Zakarian*

John J. Zakarian  
President

Mr. Andrew T. Falkiewicz  
Assistant to the Director of  
Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505